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Rep. Luján Statement on the Unemployment Rates

Washington, DC - Rep. Ben Ray Luján made the following statement about the release of new unemployment numbers by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, showing record job losses and an unemployment rate of 7.2%. The U.S. lost 524,000 jobs in December, and over 2 million jobs in the last four months. The unemployment rate is the highest since World War II.

"These startling numbers show the need for a recovery package that puts individuals back to work and makes an investment in the American people. We have to change the culture that's been created by the Bush Administration, a culture that overlooks the American worker."

"New Mexicans are struggling, and we must respond with a recovery package that creates jobs in our state. Congress and the Administration must take action to craft a package that invests in our country and creates jobs in New Mexico."

"We can create jobs in our state by investing in a new, clean energy economy. New Mexico has tremendous potential to use its vast natural resources to become a leader in renewable energy production. An investment in renewable energy can create jobs for New Mexicans, help get our economy back on track, and end our dependence on foreign oil. The unemployment numbers are troubling, but we have an opportunity to begin the recovery in New Mexico through careful investment in a new, clean energy economy."

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